

The Times.

Ogburn, Cole & Albright,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

An Independent and Literary Journal.

TERMS \$2.00 Per Annum
IN ADVANCE.

Devoted to News, Internal Improvements, Education, Agriculture, Manufacture, Commerce and the Markets.

VOL. I.]

GREENSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1856.

[NO. 2.

Office on Market Street, one door East of Albright's Hotel.

THE
GREENSBOROUGH
Is published every Thursday, in Greensborough, North Carolina,
BY
OGBURN, COLE & ALBRIGHT.

TERMS:
1 Copy one year, \$2.00
6 Copies " " " 10.00
10 " " " 15.00
No paper sent unless the money accompanies the order, nor will the paper be sent longer than paid for.
Specimen copies sent gratis, on application.

ADVERTISING.
One square (12 lines) first insertion \$1.00.
Each additional week 25cts. The following sample deductions will be made in favor of standing advertisements:
One square, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, \$3.00, \$5.00, \$8.00
Two squares, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, 6.00, 10.00, 14.00
Three " 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, 9.00, 15.00, 20.00
Half column, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, 18.00, 25.00, 35.00
Professional and business cards, not exceeding six lines—per annum, \$5.00.

Wayside Gleanings.

FOR THE TIMES.
Recollections.

The last rays of moonlight were stealing from the tree tops, where but a few moments they had rested, tinged each leafy branch with a rosy hue. So golden was the western sky it much resembled a vast and beautiful garden, rich with Summer's fragrant and many tinted flowers. Each little flower that dared peep forth from its mossy bed to kiss the passing breeze, held up its fairy-like cup to catch the pearly dew-drop which falls so gently and softly. And the stars, "Heaven's distant lamps," which hang in such strange beauty on the bosom of the bending canopy, stole out, one by one, 'till they were set like diamonds on the gossamer-like drapery of the halls of Heaven. The moon, the peerless queen of night, floated from the East upon her wings of light 'till the earth was flooded with her silvery beams. The clouds so golden in appearance hung low, and the thin white mist rose up majestically and silently as some spectre through the balmy air. The whole world of nature seemed sunk in the deepest repose. At this hour, when all tended to quell, hush, and soften every wild wayward passion and feeling of the human heart, I stole forth and wandered all alone 'neath the broad blue canopy of Heaven, to hold communion with hours long since gone into past eternity.

My heart was very sad and recollections of joys past cast a shadow deep and dark over my brow, and filled my heart with sadness. Yes, my bosom throbb'd wildly, and tears welled up from the overflowing fountain of my heart, as I looked thro' the dim shadow of years and saw the home of my childhood. The white cottage around which clustered in rich profusion the daisy and rose, peeped softly through the dark green foliage of those giant oaks with which it was surrounded. Once more I beheld the paths thro' which my young footsteps often strayed to pluck the wild flowers, with which I decked and beautified my rural home. And those forest pines beneath whose wide spreading shade I often sat and listened to the sounds produced by the gentle zephyrs, that played among their branches and fell upon my ear like the distant strains of music. There beneath those dear old trees, surrounded by my playmates, I often wore bright visions for the future and listened to the low and gentle voice of my father, who has many years been numbered with the dead.

Long years have past since I left the home of my childhood, where none but fairy dreams of happiness were ever cherished and my whole being wore a deep glow of ideal loveliness.

Life to me since then has been more than desolate. Many links in affection's chain have been broken, and all my brightest dreams effaced by the sombre hue of grief. No more as in days of old I wander through grove and wood—no charms have they for me—and why is it? The sky is as blue, the dews as soft, the trees as green, the flowers as sweet as in my youthful days. Alas! the change is in my heart, and nature still remains the same. With my heart almost breaking with its childish sorrow, I bade a fond adieu to my childhood's home, and sought a home in a strange land, where I have ever worn the mask that hides a breaking heart—and where I have learned to smile when in my soul lurks the bitterest agony. Yet, in an hour when all nature is so calm, so beautiful,

and angel worshipers seem lingering near to bear our messages above,—when earth and heaven in their united efforts endeavor to turn my heart from its sad retreat of gloom and sorrow, I can wander back and quench my thirst at the fountain of life, as when I was young, and forget that I am not now as I once was, a gay and happy child.
STELLA.
Dec. 18, 1855.

FOR THE TIMES.
[Inscribed to Miss M. D. F.]
A Wish.

Dear Mary, I could wish thy brow
Was decked in gems of gold;
But thy fair brow they will not suit,
When stern death leaves it cold.

And for thee, many treasures rare,
I'd wish from isle and sea,
But beyond death they will not dare,
Dear one, to follow thee.

But I've a wish for thee, my friend,
'Tis not of earth, but heaven.
A heart that's pure and wisdom true,
To thee, may these be given.

'Tis these, dear one, will guide thy feet,
O'er life's rough paths aright;
They'll pass with thee thro' death's dark
And be for thee a light.

They'll lead thee safe to heaven's gate,
And entrance there thy'll gain,
For thy immortal soul, dear one,
Say not the wish is vain.
E. P.
Pitt Co., N. C., Dec. 18, 1855.

Literary.
Sketches of English Statesmen.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON.
This nobleman filled the office of Lord Privy Seal, from the autumn of 1839, till the autumn of 1841. The office of Lord Privy Seal is so called from the nobleman who fills that situation having in his custody the Privy Seal, which is used to charter, grants, pardons, &c., after they have received the signature of the sovereign and before they go to the Great Seal. It is never put to any document that has not previously received the signature of the sovereign. The Earl of Clarendon has also been Ambassador to the Court of Spain.

His lordship occasionally speaks in the House of Peers; but chiefly, and almost entirely, on questions connected with trade or during debates arising out of the state of our foreign relations. When the settlement of the Oregon boundary was engaging the attention of the country, it was he who moved for the correspondence on the subject between the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the British Minister at Washington. The merit of such a speech can consist only in lucid arrangement and in condensed statement of details—which it did—and was accompanied by easy gesture. On all such occasions, the Earl of Clarendon is invariably neat, concise, and impressive; but at the same time such occasions offer no opportunity for the display of the higher features of oratory. But Lord Clarendon, in his choice of language is appropriate and select; his action is easy and graceful, and his whole manner engaging and sensible. He is not tedious in statement, or lengthened in discussions; he judiciously selects the main points, and puts them together carefully, and we proceed with him, statement by statement, from the beginning to the end, agreeing with him in almost every proposition and in nearly every conclusion.

We may avail ourselves of this opportunity of presenting our readers with a few of the forms, rules, and regulations of the House of Lords. In the House of Lords, instead of a peer addressing himself to the Lord Chancellor, (as the Members of the other House do to the Speaker,) he must address himself to the Lords generally. When the Upper House is sitting as a house, no peer may speak a second time on any question, except in the way of explanation, and of replying, when he made a motion; but when in committee, he may speak as long as he pleases. This same regulation is observed in the House of Commons. No peer is allowed to mention the name or title of a brother peer. He must allude to him, as "his noble friend," or "the noble lord," or any mode of phraseology he may like to adopt. This regulation is, also, observed in the House of Commons. When the House is in Committee, the Lord Chancellor does not sit on the woolsack, but the Earl of Shaftesbury, or whoever else may be the Chairman of Committees. In Select Committees, the peers do not sit in the House, but in some other apartment; and one of them, while addressing the others, may remain seated

all the time; but his head must be uncovered. Whenever a measure originates in the House of Lords, it is sent to the Commons by a deputation, but as it would be derogatory to the character of a nobleman to be sent to the House of Commons, the deputation consists of Masters in Chancery—generally, a couple. When a bill has passed both Houses of Parliament, it is engrossed on parchment in a fair handwriting and sent to the Queen to receive the royal assent; and that being done, immediately becomes the law of the land.

The Sovereign in these times rarely or never refuses to assent to a bill that has passed both Houses; but if he should, he observes, "The King will consider of it," which is the meaning of the French phrase "Le Roi s'avise." But when the king gives his assent to any measure, should the bill be a public one, he or some nobles executing his commission, observe, "The King wills it be so,"—"Le Roi le veut,"—but if the bill be private, "Let it be as it is desired,"—"Soit fait comme il est desire." The peers can grant no sums of money to the Sovereign, the nation or any company or individual: not even their assent is required in money matters. The people, represented by the House of Commons, are supposed to have the sole disposal of their money without the interference of another body. When, then, a sum of money is granted, the bill is taken by the Speaker of the House of Commons to the Sovereign, whose answer is, "The King thanks his loyal subjects, accepts of their benevolence and wills it be so,"—"Le Roi remercie ses loyaux sujets, accepte leur benevolence et aussi le veut."

When the House of Commons refuses to acquiesce in the alteration of any measure sent down from the House of Lords, a certain number of the Peers and of the Commons meet together in a separate apartment and confer together. During the conference the Lords sit covered at a table, and the Commons stand uncovered. If they cannot agree, the measure is dropped. The Lords are not so courteous when they throw out a measure sent up to them from the Commons. They send the bill back with these words written on it, ("Soit renvoye aux Communes,"—"Let this be a bill for the Commons," as much as to say, "It shan't be a bill for the Lords." In the House of Commons forty members must be present before business can be proceeded with; but in the House of Peers, the Lord Chancellor, two peers, and a Bishop, are sufficient. Votes are taken by beginning at the lowest baron, and proceeding to the highest peer. Every one answers by himself, "Content," or "Not content," according as he is contented or discontented with the measures. If the votes should happen to be equal, the "Not contents" are allowed to have their wish. All the peers sit quietly in their places as their votes are being taken; but afterwards the "contents" go below the bar, and the "not contents" remain within the bar.

To return to the Earl of Clarendon. His lordship is 55 years of age, and has been a peer since December 1838, when he succeeded his uncle the third Earl. It was shortly after his accession to the title of his family that he was sent by the Whig government of Lord Melbourne ambassador to the court of Madrid. The Earl is, (and was before his accession to the peerage,) included in the number of Civil Knights Grand Cross to which the first class of the Order of the Bath is limited. He ranks after the Earl of Auckland and next before the Earl of Gosford; and now that Lord Metcalfe is dead, is the sixteenth in the list. His lordship is a Privy Counsellor.

The family name of the Earl of Clarendon is Villiers, his lordship being a descendant of a branch of the noble house of Villiers, Earls of Jersey.

The Buffalo Republic gives utterance to the following truthful statement:—"In this country no young man need be unemployed. Wealth and respectability are conditions to which he may attain. He has no right to be idle, he has no right to be ignorant; he has no time to be vicious; and, generally speaking, no man has any right to be poor."

Love—pure, holy and devoted love—can never change. Friends may forsake us—the riches of the world may soar away, but the heart that loves will twine closer as louder roars the storm, & 'mid the wreck of the tempest it will serve as a beacon, to light us unto happiness.

Jokes, cayenne of conversation; and the salt of life.

Political.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

The constitution of the United States provides that Congress shall assemble annually on the first Monday of December, and it has been usual for the President to make no communication of a public character to the Senate and House of Representatives until advised of their readiness to receive it. I have deferred to the session, but my convictions of duty will not permit me longer to postpone the discharge of the obligation enjoined by the constitution upon the President "to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

It is matter of congratulation that the Republic is tranquilly advancing in a career of prosperity and peace.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.—CENTRAL AMERICA. Whilst relations of amity continue to exist between the United States and all foreign powers, with some of them grave questions are depending which may require the consideration of Congress.

Of such questions, the most important is that which has arisen out of the negotiations with Great Britain in reference to Central America. By the convention concluded between the two Governments on the 19th of April, 1850, both parties covenanted that "neither will ever occupy, or fortify or colonize, or assume or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast or any part of Central America."

It was the undoubted understanding of the United States, in making this treaty, that all the present States of the former republic of Central America, and the entire territory of each, would thenceforth enjoy complete independence; and that both contracting parties engaged equally, and to the same extent, for the present and for the future; that if either then had any claim of right in Central America such claim, and all occupation or authority under it, were unreservedly relinquished by the stipulations of the convention; and that no dominion was thereafter to be exercised or assumed in any part of Central America, by Great Britain or the United States.

This government consented to restrictions in regard to a region of country wherein we had specific and peculiar interests, only upon the conviction that the like restrictions were in the same sense obligatory on Great Britain. But for this understanding of the force and effect of the convention it would never have been concluded by us.

So clear was this understanding on the part of the United States that, in correspondence contemporaneous with the ratification of the convention, it was distinctly expressed that the mutual covenants of non-occupation were intended to apply to the British establishment at the Balize. This qualification is to be ascribed to the fact that, in virtue of successive treaties with previous sovereigns of the country, Great Britain had obtained a concession of the right to cut mahogany, or dyewoods at the Balize, but with positive exclusion of all dominion or sovereignty; and thus it contravened the natural construction and understood import of the treaty as to all the rest of the region to which the stipulations applied.

It, however, became apparent, at an early day after entering upon the discharge of my present functions that Great Britain still continued in the exercise or assertion of large authority in all that part of Central America commonly called the Mosquito coast, and covering the entire length of the State of Nicaragua and a part of Costa Rica; that she regarded the Balize as her absolute domain, and was gradually extending its limits at the expense of the State of Honduras; and that she had formally colonized a considerable insular group known as the Bay Islands, and belonging of right to that State.

All these acts or pretensions of Great Britain being contrary to the rights of the States of Central America, and to the manifest tenor of her stipulations with the United States, as understood by this government, have been made the subject of negotiation through the American Minister in London. I transmit herewith the instructions to him on the subject, and the correspondence between him and the British Secretary of Foreign Affairs, by which you will perceive that the two governments differ widely and irreconcilably as to the construction of the convention, and its effect on their respective relations to Central America.

Great Britain so construes the convention as to maintain unchanged all her previous pretensions over the Mosquito coast, and in different parts of Central America. These pretensions, as to the Mosquito coast, are founded on the assumption of political relation between Great Britain and the remnant of a tribe of Indians on that coast, entered into at a time when the whole country was a colonial possession of Spain. It cannot be successfully controverted that, by the public law of Europe and America, no possible act of such Indians or their predecessors could confer on Great Britain any political rights.

Great Britain does not allege the assent of Spain as the origin of her claims on the Mosquito coast. She has, on the contrary, by repeated and successive treaties, renounced and relinquished all pretensions of her own, and recognised the full and sovereign rights of Spain in the most unequivocal terms. Yet these pretensions, so without solid foundation in the beginning, and thus repeatedly abjured, were, at a recent period, revived by Great Britain against the Central American States, the legitimate successors to all the ancient jurisdiction of Spain in that region. They were first applied only to a defined part of the coast of Nicaragua, afterwards to the whole of its Atlantic coast, and lastly to a part of Costa Rica; and they are now reasserted to this extent, notwithstanding engagements to the United States.

On the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the interference of Great Britain, though exerted at one time in the form of military occupation of the port of San Juan del Norte, then in the peaceful possession of the appropriate authorities of the Central American States, is now presented by her as the rightful exercise of a protectorship over the Mosquito tribe of Indians.

But the establishment at the Balize, now reaching far beyond the treaty limits into the State of Honduras, and that of the Bay Islands, appropriating of right to the same State, are distinctly colonial governments as those of Jamaica or Canada, and therefore contrary to the very letter as well as the spirit of the convention with the United States, as it was at the time of ratification, and now is, understood by this government.

ain against the Central American States, the legitimate successors to all the ancient jurisdiction of Spain in that region. They were first applied only to a defined part of the coast of Nicaragua, afterwards to the whole of its Atlantic coast, and lastly to a part of Costa Rica; and they are now reasserted to this extent, notwithstanding engagements to the United States.

On the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the interference of Great Britain, though exerted at one time in the form of military occupation of the port of San Juan del Norte, then in the peaceful possession of the appropriate authorities of the Central American States, is now presented by her as the rightful exercise of a protectorship over the Mosquito tribe of Indians.

But the establishment at the Balize, now reaching far beyond the treaty limits into the State of Honduras, and that of the Bay Islands, appropriating of right to the same State, are distinctly colonial governments as those of Jamaica or Canada, and therefore contrary to the very letter as well as the spirit of the convention with the United States, as it was at the time of ratification, and now is, understood by this government.

The interpretation which the British government, thus in assertion and act, persists in ascribing to the convention, entirely changes its character. While it holds us to all our obligations, it in a great measure releases Great Britain from that which constituted the consideration of this government for entering into the convention. It is impossible, in my judgment, for the United States to acquiesce in such a construction of the respective relations of the two governments of Central America.

To a renewed call by this government upon Great Britain, to abide by the convention, and to the stipulations of the convention according to its obvious import, by withdrawing from the possession or colonization of portions of the Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, the British government has at length replied, affirming that the operation of the treaty is prospective only, and did not require Great Britain to abandon or contract any possessions held by her in Central America at the date of its conclusion.

This reply substitutes a partial issue in the place of the general one presented by the United States. The British government passes over the question of the rights of Great Britain, real or supposed, in Central America, and assumes that she had such rights at the date of the treaty, and that those rights comprehended the protectorship of the Mosquito Indians, the extended jurisdiction and limits of the Balize, and the colony of the Bay Islands, and thereupon proceeds by implication to infer that, if the stipulations of the treaty be merely future in effect, Great Britain may still continue to hold the contested portions of Central America. The United States cannot admit either the inference or the premises. Westwardly deny that, at the date of the treaty, Great Britain had any possessions there, other than the limited and peculiar establishment at the Balize, and maintain that, if she had any, they were surrendered by the convention.

This Government, recognizing the obligations of the treaty, has, of course, desired to see it executed in good faith by both parties, and in the discussion, therefore, has not looked to rights which we might assert independently of the treaty, in consideration of our geographical position and of other circumstances, which create for us relations to the Central American States different from those of any government of Europe.

The British Government, in its last communication, although well knowing the views of the U. States, still declares that it sees no reason why a conciliatory spirit may not enable the two governments to overcome all obstacles to a satisfactory adjustment of the subject.

Assured of the correctness of the construction of the treaty constantly adhered to by this government, and resolved to insist on the rights of the United States, yet actual also by the same desire which is avowed by the British government, to remove all causes of serious misunderstanding between two nations associated by so many ties of interest and kindred, it has appeared to me proper not to consider an amicable solution of the controversy hopeless.

There is, however, reason to apprehend that, with Great Britain in the actual occupation of the disputed territories, and the treaty therefore practically null, so far as regards our rights, this international difficulty cannot long remain undetermined, without involving in serious danger the friendly relations which it is the interest as well as duty of both countries to cherish and preserve. It will afford me sincere gratification if future efforts shall result in the success anticipated heretofore with more confidence than the aspect of the case permits me now to entertain.

One other subject of discussion between the United States and Great Britain has grown out of the attempt, which the exigencies of the war in which she is engaged with Russia induced her to make, to draw recruits from the United States.

It is the traditional and settled policy of the United States to maintain impartial neutrality during the wars which from time to time occur among the great powers of the world. Performing all the duties of neutrality towards the respective belligerent States, we may reasonably expect them not to interfere with our lawful enjoyment of its benefits.

Notwithstanding the existence of such hostilities, our citizens retain the individual right to continue all their accustomed pursuits, by land or by sea, at home or abroad, subject only to such restrictions in this relation as the laws of

war, the usage of nations, or special treaties, may impose; and it is our sovereign right that our territory and jurisdiction shall not be invaded by either of the belligerent parties, for the transit of their armies, the operations of their fleets, the levy of troops for their services, the fitting out of cruisers by or against either, or any other act or incident of war. And these undeniable rights of neutrality, individual and national, the United States will under no circumstances surrender.

In pursuance of this policy, the laws of the United States do not forbid their citizens to sell to either of the belligerent powers articles contraband of war, or to take munitions of war or soldiers on board their private ships for transportation; and although, in so doing, the individual citizen exposes his property or person to some of the hazards of war, his acts do not involve any breach of national neutrality, nor of themselves implicate the government. Thus, during the progress of the present war in Europe, our citizens have, without national responsibility therefor, sold gunpowder and arms to all buyers, regardless of the destination of those articles. Our merchantmen have been, and still continue to be, largely employed by Great Britain and France, in transporting troops, provisions, and munitions of war to the principal seats of military operations, and in bringing home their sick and wounded soldiers; but such use of our mercantile marine is not interdicted either by the international, or by our municipal law, and therefore does not compromise our neutral relations with Russia.

But our municipal law, in accordance with the law of nations, perceptibly forbids, not only foreigners, but our own citizens, to fit out, within the limits of the United States, a vessel to commit hostilities against any state with which the United States are at peace, or to increase the force of any foreign armed vessel intended for such hostilities against a friendly state.

Whatever concern may have been felt by either of the belligerent powers lest private armed cruisers, or other vessels, in the service of one, might be fitted out in the ports of this country to depredate on the property of the other, all such fears have proved to be utterly groundless. Our citizens have been withheld from any such act or purpose by good faith, and by respect for the law.

While the laws of the Union are thus peremptory in their prohibition of the equipment or armament of belligerent cruisers in our ports, they provide not less absolutely that no person shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, enlist or enter himself, or hire or retain another person to enlist or enter himself, or to go beyond the limits or jurisdiction of the United States with intent to be enlisted or entered, in the service of any foreign state, as a soldier, or as a marine or seaman on board of any vessel of war, letter of marque or privateer. And these enactments are also in strict conformity with the law of nations, which declares that no state has the right to raise troops for land or sea service in another state without its consent, and that, whether forbidden by the municipal law or not, the very attempt to do it, without such consent, is an attack on the national sovereignty.

Such being the public rights and the municipal law of the United States, no solicitude on the subject was entertained by this government, when, a year since, the British Parliament passed an act to provide for the military service of foreigners in the military service of Great Britain. Nothing on the face of the act, or in its public history, indicated that the British government proposed to attempt recruitment in the United States; nor did it ever give intimation of such intention to this government. It was matter of surprise, therefore, to find, subsequently, that the engagement of persons within the United States to proceed to Halifax in the British province of Nova Scotia, and there enlist in the service of Great Britain, was going on extensively, with little or no disguise. Ordinary legal steps were immediately taken to arrest and punish persons concerned, and so put an end to acts infringing the municipal law and derogatory to our sovereignty. Meanwhile suitable representations on the subject were addressed to the British government.

Thereupon it became known, by the admission of the British government itself, that the attempt to draw recruits from this country originated with it, or at least had its approval and sanction; but it also appeared that the public agents engaged in it had "stringent instructions" not to violate the municipal law of the United States.

It is difficult to understand how it should have been supposed that troops could be raised here by Great Britain without a violation of the municipal law. The unmistakable object of the law was to prevent every such act, which, if performed, must be either in violation of the law or in studied evasion of it; and, in either alternative, the act done would be alike injurious to the sovereignty of the United States.

In the meantime, the matter acquired additional importance by the recruitments in the United States not being discontinued, and the disclosure of the fact that they were prosecuted upon a systematic plan devised by official authority; that recruiting rendezvous had been opened in our principal cities, and depots for the reception of recruits established on our frontier; and the whole business conducted under the supervision and by the regular co-operation of British officers, civil and military, some in the North American provinces, and some in the United States. The complicity of those officers in an undertaking which could only be accomplished by defying our laws throwing suspicion over our attitude of neutrality, and disregarding our territorial rights is conclusively proved by the evidence elicited on the trial of such of their agents as have been apprehended and convicted. Some of the officers thus implicated are of high official position, and many of them beyond our jurisdiction, so that legal proceedings could not reach the source of the mischief.

These considerations, and the fact that the cause of complaint was not a mere casual occurrence, but a deliberate design, entered upon with full knowledge of our laws and national policy, and conducted by responsible public functionaries, impelled me to present the case to the British government, in order to secure, not only a cessation of the wrong, but its reparation. The subject is still under discussion, the result of which will be communicated to you in due time.

BRITISH RELATIONS.—continued.
I repeat the recommendation submitted to the last Congress that provision be made for the appointment of a commissioner, in connection with Great Britain, to survey and establish the boundary line which divides the territory of Washington from the contiguous British possessions. By reason of the extent and importance of the country in dispute, there has been imminent danger of collision between the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States, including their respective authorities in that quarter. The prospect of a speedy arrangement has contributed hitherto to induce on both sides forbearance to assert by force what each claims as a right. Continuance of delay on the part of the two governments to act in the matter will increase the dangers and difficulties of the controversy.

Misunderstanding exists as to the extent, character, and value of the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company and the property of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, reserved in our treaty with Great Britain relative to the Territory of Oregon. I have reason to believe that a cessation of the rights of both companies to the United States, which would be the readiest means of terminating all questions, can be obtained on reasonable terms; and, with a view to this end, I present the subject to the attention of Congress.

The colony of Newfoundland, having enacted the laws required by the treaty of the 5th of June, 1854, is now placed on the same footing, in respect to commercial intercourse with the United States, as the other British North American provinces.

The commission, which that treaty contemplated, for determining the rights of fishery in the rivers and mouths of rivers on the coasts of the United States and the British North American provinces, has been organized and has commenced its labors; to complete which there is needed further appropriations for the service of another season.

SIXTY DUES.
In pursuance of the authority conferred by a resolution of the Senate of the United States passed on the 3d of March last, notice was given to Denmark on the 14th day of April, of the intention of this government to avail itself of the stipulation of the subsisting convention of friendship, commerce, and navigation between that Kingdom and the United States, whereby either party might after ten years, terminate the same at the expiration of one year from the date of notice for that purpose.

The considerations which led me to call the attention of Congress to that convention, and induce the Senate to adopt the resolution referred to, still continue in full force. The convention contains an article which, although it does not directly engage the United States to submit to the imposition of tolls on the vessels and cargoes of Americans passing into or from the Baltic sea, during the continuance of the treaty, yet may, by possibility, be construed as imposing such submission. The exaction of those tolls not being justified by any principle of international law, it became the right and the duty of the United States to relieve themselves from the implication of engagement on the subject, so as to be perfectly free to act in the premises in such way as their public interests and honor shall demand.

I remain of the opinion that the United States ought not to submit to the payment of the Sound dues; not so much because of their amount, which is a secondary matter, but because it is in effect the recognition of the right of Denmark to treat one of the great maritime highways of nations as a close sea, and the navigation of it as a privilege for which tribute may be imposed upon those who have occasion to use it.

This government on a former occasion not unlike the present, signified its determination to maintain the freedom of the seas, and of the great natural channels of navigation. The Barbary States had, for a long time, coerced the payment of tribute from all nations whose ships frequented the Mediterranean. To the last demand of such payment made by them, the United States, although suffering less by their depredations than many other nations, returned the explicit answer that we preferred war to tribute, and thus opened the way for the relief of the commerce of the world from an ignominious tax, so long submitted to by the more powerful nations of Europe.

If the manner of payment of the Sound dues differ from that of the tribute formerly conceded to the Barbary States, still their exaction by Denmark has no better foundation in right. Each was, in its origin, nothing but a tax on a common natural right, extorted by those who were at that time able to obstruct the free and secure enjoyment of it, but who no longer possess that power.

Denmark, while resisting our assertion of the freedom of the Baltic Sound and Belts, has in-

declared a readiness to make some new arrangement on the subject, and has invited the government to be represented in a convention to assemble for the purpose of receiving and considering a proposition, which she intends to submit, for the capitalization of the Sound dues, and the distribution of the sum to be paid as compensation among the governments, according to the respective proportions of their maritime commerce to and from the Baltic. I have declined in behalf of the United States to accept this invitation, for the most cogent reasons, one is, that Denmark does not offer to submit to the convention the question of her right to levy the Sound dues. A second is, that if the convention were allowed to take cognizance of that particular question, still it would not be competent to deal with the great international principle involved which affects the right in other cases of navigation and commercial freedom, as well as that of access to the Baltic. Above all, by the express terms of the proposition it is contemplated that the consideration of the Sound dues shall be couched with and made subordinate to a higher wholly extraneous, the balance of power among the governments of Europe.

While, however, rejecting this proposition, and insisting on the right of free transit into and from the Baltic, I have expressed to Denmark a willingness, on the part of the United States, to share liberally with other powers in compensating her for any advantages which commerce shall hereafter derive from expedients made by her for the improvement and safety of the navigation of the Sound or Belts.

I lay before you, herewith, sundry documents on the subject, in which my views are more fully disclosed. Should no satisfactory arrangement be soon concluded, I shall again call your attention to the subject, with recommendation of such measures as may appear to be required in order to assert and secure the rights of the United States, so far as they are affected by the pretensions of Denmark.

FRANCE.

I announce with much gratification that, since the adjournment of the last Congress, the question then existing between this government and that of France, respecting the French consul at San Francisco, has been satisfactorily determined, and that the relations of the two governments continue to be of the most friendly nature.

GREECE.

A question, also, which has been pending for several years between the United States and the Kingdom of Greece, growing out of the sequestration, by public authorities of that country, of property belonging to the present American consul at Athens, and which had been the subject of very earnest discussion heretofore, has been recently settled to the satisfaction of the party interested and of both governments.

SPAIN.

With Spain peaceful relations are still maintained, and some progress has been made in securing the redress of wrongs complained of by this government. Spain has not only disavowed and disapproved the conduct of the officers who illegally seized and detained the steamer Black Warrior at Havana, but has also paid the sum claimed as indemnity for the loss thereby inflicted on citizens of the United States.

In consequence of a destructive hurricane, which visited Cuba in 1844, the supreme authority of that island issued a decree permitting the importation, for the period of six months, of certain building materials and provisions, free of duty, but revoked it when about half the period only had elapsed, to the injury of citizens of the United States, who had proceeded to act on the faith of that decree. The Spanish government refused indemnification to the parties aggrieved until recently, when it was assented to, payment being promised to be made so soon as the amount due can be ascertained.

Satisfaction claimed for the arrest and search of the steamer El Dorado has not yet been accorded, but there is reason to believe that it will be, and that case, with others, continues to be urged on the attention of the Spanish government. I do not abandon the hope of concluding with Spain some general arrangement, which, if it do not wholly prevent the recurrence of difficulties in Cuba, will render them less frequent, and whenever they shall occur facilitate their more speedy settlement.

MEXICO.

The interposition of this government has been invoked by many of its citizens, on account of injuries done to their persons and property, for which the Mexican republic is responsible. The unhappy situation of that country, for some time past, has not allowed its government to give due consideration to claims of private reparation, and has appeared to call for and justify some forbearance in such matters on the part of this government. But, if the revolutionary movements, which have lately occurred in that republic, end in the organization of a stable government, urgent appeals to its justice will then be made, and it may be hoped, with success, for the redress of all complaints of our citizens.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

In regard to the American republics, which, from their proximity and other considerations, have peculiar relations to this government, while it has been my constant aim strictly to observe all the obligations of political friendship and of good neighborhood, obstacles to this have arisen in some of them, from their own insufficient power to check lawless irruptions, which, in effect, throw most of the task on the United States. Thus it is that the distracted internal condition of the State of Nicaragua has made it incumbent on me to appeal to the good faith of our citizens to abstain from unlawful intervention in its affairs, and to adopt preventive measures to the same end, which, on a similar occasion, had the best results in re-asserting the peace of the Mexican States of Sonora and Lower California.

TREASURY.

Since the last session of Congress a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, and for the suppression of fugitive criminals, with the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies; a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with Nicaragua; and a convention of commercial reciprocity with the Hawaiian Kingdom, have been negotiated. The latter kingdom and the State of Nicaragua have also assented to a declaration, recognizing as international rights the principles contained in the convention between the United States and Russia of the 22d of July, 1853. These treaties and conventions will be laid before the Senate for ratification.

The statements made, in my last annual message, respecting the anticipated receipts and expenditures of the Treasury have been substantially verified.

It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury that the receipts during the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1855, from all sources, were sixty-five million three thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars; and that the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to fifty-six million three hundred and sixty-five thousand three hundred and ninety-three dollars. During the same period, the payments made in redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium, amounted to nine million eight hundred and forty-four thousand five hundred and twenty-eight dollars.

The balance in the Treasury at the beginning of the present fiscal year, July 1, 1855, was eighteen million nine hundred and thirty-one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six dollars; the receipts for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts for the remaining three-quarters, amount, to sixty-seven million, nine hundred and eighteen thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars; thus affording in all, as the available resources of the current fiscal year, the sum of eighty-six million eight hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and ten dollars.

If, to the actual expenditures of the first quarter of the current fiscal year be added the probable expenditures for the remaining three-quarters, as estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury, the sum total will be seventy-one million two hundred and twenty-six thousand eight hundred and forty-six dollars, thereby leaving an estimated balance in the treasury on July 1, 1856, of fifteen million six hundred and twenty-three thousand eight hundred and sixty-three dollars and forty-one cents.

In the above estimated expenditures of the present fiscal year are included three million dollars to meet the last installment of the ten millions provided for in the late treaty with Mexico, and seven million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars appropriated on the account of the debt due to Texas, which two sums make an aggregate amount of ten million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and reduce the expenditures, actual or estimated, for ordinary objects of the year, to the sum of sixty million four hundred and seventy-six thousand and six dollars.

The amount of the public debt, at the commencement of the present fiscal year, was forty million five hundred and eighty-three thousand six hundred and thirty-one dollars, and deduction being made of subsequent payments, the whole public debt of the federal government remaining at this time is less than forty million dollars.

The amount of certain other government stock, amounting to two hundred and forty-three thousand dollars, referred to in my last message as out-standing, has since been paid. I am fully persuaded that it would be difficult to devise a system superior to that by which the fiscal business of the government is now conducted. Notwithstanding the great number of public agents of collection and disbursement, it is believed that the checks and guards provided, including the requirement of monthly returns, render it scarcely possible for any considerable fraud on the part of those agents, or neglect involving hazard of serious public loss to escape detection. I renew, however, the recommendation, heretofore made by me, of the enactment of a law declaring it felony on the part of public officers to insert false entries in their books of record or account, or to make false returns, and also requiring them on the termination of their service to deliver to their successors all books, records, and other objects of a public nature in their custody.

Derived as our public revenue is, in chief part, from duties on imports, its magnitude affords gratifying evidence of the prosperity, not only of our commerce, but of the other great interests upon which that depends. The principle that all moneys not required for the current expenses of the government should remain for active employment in the hands of the people, and the conspicuous fact that the annual revenue from all sources exceeds, by many millions of dollars, the amount needed for a prudent and economical administration of public affairs, cannot fail to suggest the propriety of an early revision and reduction of the tariff of duties on imports. It is now so generally conceded that the purpose of revenue alone can justify the imposition of duties on imports, that, in re-adjusting the import duties and schedules, which unquestionably require essential modifications, a departure from the principles of the present tariff is not anticipated.

ARMY.

The army, during the past year, has been extensively engaged in defending the Indian frontier, the state of the service permitting but few small garrisons in our permanent fortifications. The additional regiments authorized at the last session of Congress have been recruited and organized, and a large portion of the troops have already been sent to the field. All the duties, which devolve on the military establishment, have been satisfactorily performed, and the dangers and privations incident to the character of the service required of our troops have furnished additional evidence of their courage, zeal, and capacity to meet any requisition which their country may make upon them. For the details of the military operations, the distribution of the troops, and additional provisions required for the military service, I refer to the report of the Secretary of War and the accompanying documents.

Experience, gathered from events which have transpired since my last annual message, has served to confirm the opinion then expressed of the propriety of making provision, by a retired list, for disabled officers, and for increased compensation to the officers retained on the list for active duty. All the reasons which existed when these measures were recommended on former occasions continue without modification, except so far as circumstances have given to some of them additional force.

The recommendations heretofore made for a partial reorganization of the army are also renewed. The thorough elementary education given to those officers who commence their service with the grade of cadet qualifies them to a considerable extent to perform the duties of every arm of the service; but to give the highest efficiency to artillery requires the practice and special study of many years; and it is not, therefore, believed to be advisable to maintain, in time of peace, a larger force of that arm than

is usually employed in the duties appertaining to the service of field and siege artillery. The duties of the staff in all its various branches belong to the movements of troops, and the efficiency of an army in the field would materially depend upon the ability with which those duties are discharged.

It is not, as in the case of the artillery, a speciality, but requires, also, an intimate knowledge of the duties of an officer of the line, and it is not doubted that, to complete the education of an officer for either the line or the general staff, it is desirable that he shall have served in both. With this view, it was recommended on a former occasion that the duties of the staff should be mainly performed by details from the line; and, with conviction of the advantages which would result from such a change, it is again presented for the consideration of Congress.

NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith submitted, exhibits in full the navy operations of the past year, together with the present condition of the service, and it makes suggestions of further legislation, to which your attention is invited.

The construction of the six steam frigates, for which appropriations were made by the last Congress, has proceeded in the most satisfactory manner, and with such expedition as to warrant the belief that they will be ready for service early in the coming spring. Important as this addition to our naval force is, it still remains inadequate to the contingent exigencies of the protection of the extensive sea coast and vast commercial interests of the United States. In view of this fact and of the acknowledged wisdom of the policy of a gradual and systematic increase of the navy, an appropriation is recommended for the construction of 6 steam sloops of war.

In regard to the steps taken in execution of the act of Congress to promote the efficiency of the navy, it is unnecessary for me to say more than to express entire concurrence in the observations on that subject presented by the Secretary in his report.

POST-OFFICE.

It will be perceived, by the report of the Post-master General, that the gross expenditure of the department for the last fiscal year was nine million nine hundred and sixty-eight thousand three hundred and forty-two dollars, and the gross receipts seven million three hundred and forty-two thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars, making an excess of expenditure over receipts of two million six hundred and twenty-six thousand two hundred and six dollars; and that the cost of mail transportation during that year was six hundred and seventy-four thousand nine hundred and fifty-two dollars greater than the previous year.

Much of the heavy expenditures, to which the Treasury is thus subjected, is to be ascribed to the large quantity of printed matter conveyed by the mails, either franked, or liable to no postage by law, or to very low rates of postage compared with that charged on letters; and to the great cost of mail service on railroads and by ocean steamers. The suggestions of the Post-master General on the subject deserve the consideration of Congress.

INTERIOR.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior will engage your attention, as well for useful suggestions it contains, as for the interest and importance of the subjects to which they refer. The aggregate amount of public land sold during the last fiscal year, located with military scrip or land warrants, taken up under grants for roads, and selected as swamp lands by States, is twenty-four million five hundred and fifty-seven thousand four hundred and nine acres; of which the portion sold was fifteen million seven hundred and twenty-nine thousand five hundred and twenty-four acres; yielded in receipts the sum of eleven million four hundred and eighty-five thousand three hundred and eighty dollars. In the same period of time, eight million seven hundred and twenty-three thousand eight hundred and fifty-four acres have been surveyed; but, in consideration of the quantity already subject to entry, no additional tracts have been brought into market.

The peculiar relation of the general government to the District of Columbia renders it proper to commend to your care not only its material, but also its moral interests, including education, more especially in those parts of the District outside of the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

The commissioners appointed to revise and codify the laws of the District have made such progress in the performance of their task as to insure its completion in the time prescribed by the act of Congress.

Information has recently been received, that the peace of the settlements in the Territories of Oregon and Washington is disturbed by hostilities on the part of the Indians, with indications of extensive combinations of a hostile character among the tribes in that quarter, the more serious in their possible effect by reason of the undetermined foreign interests existing in those Territories, to which your attention has already been especially invited. Efficient measures have been taken, which it is believed will restore quiet and afford protection to our citizens.

In the Territory of Kansas there have been acts prejudicial to good order, but as yet none have occurred under circumstances to justify the interposition of the federal executive. That could only be in case of obstruction to federal law, or of organized resistance to territorial law, assuming the character of insurrection, which, if it should occur, it would be my duty promptly to overcome and suppress. I cherish the hope, however, that the occurrence of any such upward event will be prevented by the sound sense of the people of the territory, who, by its organic law, possessing the right to determine their own domestic institutions, are entitled, while deporting themselves peaceably, to the free exercise of that right, and must be protected in the enjoyment of it, without interference on the part of the citizens of any of the States.

The southern boundary line of this Territory has never been surveyed and established. The rapidly extending settlements in that region, and the fact that the main route between Independence, in the State of Missouri, and New Mexico, is contiguous to this line, suggest the probability that embarrassing questions of jurisdiction may consequently arise. For these and other considerations I commend the subject to your early attention.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT.

I have thus passed in review the general state of the Union, including such particular concerns of the federal government, whether of domestic or foreign relation, as it appeared to me desirable and useful to bring to the special notice of

Congress. Unlike the great states of Europe and Asia, and many of those of America, these United States are wasting their strength neither in foreign war nor domestic strife. Whatever of discontent or public dissatisfaction exists, is attributable to the imperfections of human nature, or is incident to all governments, however perfect, which human wisdom can devise.

Such subjects of political agitation as occupy the public mind consist, to a great extent, of exaggeration of inevitable evils, or of over real in social improvement, or more imagination of grievance, having but remote connection with any of the constitutional functions or duties of the federal government. To whatever extent these questions exhibit a tendency menacing to the stability of the Constitution, or the integrity of the Union, and no farther, they demand the consideration of the Executive, and require to be presented by him to Congress.

Before the Thirteen Colonies became a confederation of the independent States, they were associated only by community of transatlantic origin, by geographical position, and by the mutual tie of common dependence on Great Britain. When that tie was sundered, they severally assumed the powers and rights of absolute self-government. The municipal and social institutions of each, its laws of property and of personal relation, even its political organization, were such only as each one chose to establish, wholly without interference from any other.

In the language of the Declaration of Independence, each State had "full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do." The several colonies differed in climate, in soil, in natural productions, in religion, in systems of education, in legislation, and in the forms of political administration; and they continued to differ in these respects when they voluntarily allied themselves as States to carry on the war of the revolution.

The object of that war was to disenthral the United Colonies from foreign rule, which had proved to be oppressive, and to separate them permanently from the mother country; the political result was the foundation of a federal republic of the free white men of the colonies, constituted, as they were, in distinct, and reciprocally independent State governments.

As for the subject races, whether Indian or African, the wise and brave statesmen of that day, being engaged in no extravagant scheme of social change, left them as they were, and thus preserved themselves and their posterity from the anarchy, and the ever-recurring civil wars, which have prevailed in other revolutionary European colonies of America.

When the confederated States found it convenient to modify the conditions of their association, by giving to the general government direct powers, in some respects, to the people of the States, instead of confining it to action on the States as such, they proceeded to frame the existing constitution, adhering steadily to one guiding thought, which was, to delegate only such power as was necessary and proper to the execution of specific purposes, or, in other words to retain as much as possible, consistently with those purposes, of the independent powers of the individual States. For objects of common defence and security, they entrusted to the general government certain carefully-defined functions, leaving all others as the undelimited rights of the separate independent sovereignties.

Such is the constitution theory of our government, the practical observance of which has carried us, and us alone, among modern republics, through nearly three generations of time without the cost of one drop of blood shed in civil war. With freedom and concert of action, it has enabled us to contend successfully on the battlefield against foreign foes, has elevated the feeble colonies into powerful States, and has raised our industrial productions, and our commerce which transports them, to the level of the richest and the greatest nations of Europe. And the admirable adaptation of our political institutions to their objects, combining local self-government with aggregate strength, has established the practicability of a government like ours to cover a continent with confederate States.

The Congress of the United States is, in effect, that congress of sovereigns, which good men in the Old World have sought for, but could never attain, and which imparts to America an exemption from the mutal leagues for common action, from the wars, the mutual invasions, and vague convulsions from the balance of power, which convulse from time to time the governments of Europe. Our co-operative action rests in the conditions of permanent confederation prescribed by the constitution.

Our balance of power is in the separate reserved rights of the States, and their equal representation in the Senate. That independent sovereignty in every one of the States, with its reserved rights of local self-government assured to each by their co-equal power in the Senate, was the fundamental condition of the constitution. Without it the Union would never have existed.

However desirous the larger States might be to re-organize the government so as to give to their population proportionate weight in the common councils, they knew it was impossible, unless they conceded to the smaller ones authority to exercise at least a negative influence on all the measures of the government, whether legislative or executive, through their equal representation in the Senate. Indeed, the larger States themselves could not have failed to perceive that the same power was equally necessary to them, for the security of their own domestic interests against the aggregate force of the general government. In a word, the original States went into this permanent league on the agreed premises, of exerting their common strength for the defence of the whole, and of all its parts; but of utterly excluding all capability of reciprocal aggression. Each solemnly bound itself to all the others, neither to undertake, nor permit, any encroachment upon, or intermeddling with, another's reserved rights.

Where it was deemed expedient, particular rights of the States were expressly guaranteed by the constitution; but in all things besides, these rights were guarded by the limitation of the powers granted, and by express reservation of all powers not granted, in the compact of union. Thus, the great power of taxation was limited to purposes of common defence and general welfare, excluding objects appertaining to the local legislation of the several States; and those purposes of general welfare and common defence were afterwards defined by specific enumeration, as being matters only of correlation between

the States themselves, or between them and foreign governments, which because of their common and general nature, could not be left to the separate control of each State.

Of the circumstances of local condition, interest, and rights, in which a portion of the States, constituting one great section of the Union differed from the rest, and from another section, the most important was the peculiarity of a larger relative colored population in the southern than in the northern States.

A population of this class, held in subjection, existed in nearly all the States, but was more numerous and of more serious concernment in the South than in the North, on account of natural differences of climate and production; and it was foreseen that, for the same reasons, while this population would diminish, and sooner or later cease to exist, in some States, it might increase in others. The peculiar character and magnitude of this question of local rights, not in material relations only, but still more in social ones, caused it to enter into the special stipulations of the constitution.

Hence, while the general government, as well by the enumerated powers granted to it, as by those not enumerated, and therefore refused to it, was forbidden to touch this matter in the sense of attack or offence, it was placed under the general safeguard of the Union, in the sense of defence against either invasion or domestic violence, like all other local interests of the several States. Each State expressly stipulated, as well for itself as for each and all of its citizens, and every citizen of each State became solemnly bound by its allegiance to the constitution, that any person, held to service or labor in one State, escaping into another, should not, in consequence of any law or regulation thereof, be discharged from such service or labor, but should be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor might be due by the laws of his State.

Thus, and thus only, by the reciprocal guaranty of all the rights of every State against interference on the part of another, was the present form of government established by our fathers, and transmitted to us; and by no other means is it possible for it to exist. If one State ceases to respect the rights of another, and obstructively intermeddles with its local interests, — if a portion of the States assume to impose their institutions on the others, or refuse to fulfill their obligations to them, — we are no longer united friendly States, but distracted hostile ones, with little capacity left of common advantage, but abundant means of reciprocal injury and mischief.

Practically, it is immaterial whether aggressive interference between the States, or deliberate refusal on the part of any one of them to comply with constitutional obligations, arise from erroneous conviction or blind prejudice, whether it be perpetrated by direction or indirect. In either case, it is full of threat and of danger to the durability of the Union.

Placed in the office of Chief Magistrate as the executive agent of the whole country, bound to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and specially enjoined by the constitution to give information to Congress on the state of the Union, it would be palpable neglect of duty on my part to pass over a subject like this, which, beyond all things at the present time, vitally concerns individual and public security.

It has been a matter of painful regret to see States, conspicuous for their services in founding this Republic, and equally sharing its advantages, disregard their constitutional obligations to it. Although conscious of their inability to head admitted and palpable social evils of their own, and which are completely within their jurisdiction, they have been careless and hopeless undertaking of reforming the domestic institutions of other States wholly beyond their pursuit and authority.

In the vain pursuit of ends, by them entirely unattainable, and which they may not legally attempt to compass, they peril the very existence of the constitution, and all the countless benefits which it has conferred. While the people of the Southern States confine their attention to their own affairs, not presuming officiously to intermeddle with the social institutions of the Northern States, too many of the inhabitants of the latter are permanently organized in associations to inflict injury on the former, by wrongful acts, which would be cause of war as between foreign powers, and only fail to be such in our system, because perpetrated under cover of the Union.

It is impossible to present this subject as truth and the occasion require, without noticing the reiterated but groundless allegation, that the South has persistently asserted claims and obtained advantages in the practical administration of the general government, to the prejudice of the North, and in which the latter has acquiesced. That is, the States, which either promote or tolerate attacks on the rights of persons and of property in other States, to disguise their own injustice, pretend or imagine, and constantly aver, that they, whose constitutional rights are thus systematically assailed, are themselves the aggressors. At the present time, this imputed aggression resting, as it does, only in the vague, declamatory charges of political agitators, resolves itself into misapprehension, or misinterpretation, of the principles and facts of the political organization of the new Territories of the United States.

What is the voice of History? When the ordinance which provided for the government of the territory northwest of the river Ohio, and for its eventual subdivision into new States, was adopted in the Congress of the confederation, it is not to be supposed that the question of future relative power, as between the States which retained, and those which did not retain, a numerous colored population, escaped notice, or failed to be considered. And yet the concession of that vast territory to the interests and opinions of the Northern States, a territory now the seat of five among the largest members of the Union, was, in a great measure, the act of the State of Virginia and of the South.

When Louisiana was acquired by the United States, it was an acquisition not less to the North than to the South; for while it was important to the country at the mouth of the river Mississippi to become the emporium of the country above it, so also it was even more important to the whole Union to have that emporium; and although the new province, by reason of its imperfect settlement, was mainly regarded as on the Gulf of Mexico, yet, in fact, it extended to the opposite boundaries of the United States, with far greater breadth above than below, and was in territory, as in every other aspect, equally at least an accession to the Northern States. It is more delicate and pre-

judice, therefore, to speak of Louisiana as an acquisition in the special interest of the South.

The patriotic and just men who participated in that act were influenced by motives far above all sectional jealousies. It was in truth the great event which, by completing for us the possession of the valley of the Mississippi, by commercial access to the Gulf of Mexico, imparted unity and strength to the whole confederation, and attached together by indissoluble ties the East and the West, as well as the North and the South.

As to Florida, that was but the transfer by Spain to the United States of territory on the east side of the river Mississippi, in exchange for large territory, which the United States transferred to Spain on the west side of that river, as the entire diplomatic history of the transaction serves to demonstrate. Moreover, it was an acquisition demanded by the commercial interests and the security of the whole Union.

In the meantime, the people of the United States had grown up to a proper consciousness of their strength, and in a brief contest with France, and in a second serious war with Great Britain, they had shaken off all which remained of undue reverence for Europe, and emerged from the atmosphere of those transatlantic influences which surrounded the infant Republic, and had begun to turn their attention to the full and systematic development of the internal resources of the Union.

Among the evanescent controversies of that period, the most conspicuous was the question of regulation by Congress of the social condition of the future States to be founded in the territory of Louisiana.

The ordinance for the government of the territory northwest of the river Ohio had contained a provision, which prohibited the use of servile labor therein, subject to the condition of the extradition of fugitives from service due in another part of the United States. Subsequently to the adoption of the constitution, this provision ceased to remain as a law; for its operation as such was absolutely superseded by the constitution. But the recollection of the fact excited the zeal of the social propagandism in some sections of the confederation, and when a second State, that of Missouri, came to be formed in the territory of Louisiana, proposition was made to extend to the latter territory the restriction originally applied to the country situated between the rivers Ohio and Mississippi.

Most questionable as was this proposition in all its constitutional relations, nevertheless it received the sanction of Congress, with some slight modifications of line, to save the existing rights of the intended new State. It was reluctantly acquiesced in by Southern States as a sacrifice to the cause of peace and of the Union, not only of the rights stipulated by the treaty of Louisiana, but of the principle of equality among the States guaranteed by the constitution. It was received by the Northern States with angry and resentful condemnation and complaint, because it did not concede all which they had exactly demanded. Having passed through the forms of legislation, it took its place in the statute book, standing open to repeal, like any other act of doubtful constitutionality, subject to be pronounced null and void by the courts of law, and possessing no possible efficacy to control the rights of the States which might thereafter be organized out of any part of the original territory of Louisiana.

In all this, if any aggression there were, any innovation upon pre-existing rights, to which portion of the Union are they justly chargeable?

This controversy passed away with the occasion, nothing surviving it save the dormant letter of the statute.

But, long afterwards, when by the proposed accession of the republic of Texas, the United States were to take their next step in territorial greatness, a similar contingency occurred, and became the occasion for systematized attempts to intervene in the domestic affairs of one section of the Union, in defence of their rights as States, and of the stipulations of the constitution. These attempts assumed a practical direction, in the shape of persevering endeavors, by some of the representatives, in both Houses of Congress, to deprive the Southern States of the supposed benefit of the provisions of the act authorizing the organization of the State of Missouri.

But the good sense of the people, and the vital force of the constitution, triumphed over sectional prejudice and the political errors of the day, and the State of Texas returned to the Union as she was, with social institutions which her people had chosen for themselves, and with express agreement, by the re-annexing act, that she should be susceptible of subdivision into a plurality of States.

Whatever advantage the interests of the Southern States, as such, gained by this were far inferior in results as they unfolded in the progress of time, to those which sprang from previous concessions made to the South.

To every thoughtful friend of the Union—to the true lovers of their country—to all who longed and labored for the full success of this great experiment of republican institutions—it was cause of gratulation that such an opportunity had occurred to illustrate our advancing power on this continent, and to furnish to the world additional assurance of the strength and stability of the constitution. Who would wish to see Florida still a European colony? Who would rejoice to hail Texas as a lone star, instead of one in the galaxy of States? Who does not appreciate the incalculable benefits of the acquisition of Louisiana? And yet narrow views and sectional purposes would inevitably have excluded them all from the Union.

But another struggle on the same point ensued, when our victorious armies returned from Mexico, and it devolved on Congress to provide for the territories acquired by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The great relations of the subject had now become distinct and clear to the perception of the public mind, which appreciated the evils of sectional controversy upon the question of the admission of new States. In that crisis intense solitude pervaded the nation. But the patriotic impulses of the popular heart, guided by the admonitory advice of the Father of his Country, rose superior to all the difficulties of the incorporation of a new empire into the Union. In the councils of Congress there was manifested extreme antagonism of opinion and action between some representatives, who sought by the abusive and unconstitutional employment of the legislative powers of the government to interfere in the condition of the incipient States, and

to impose their own social theories upon the latter; and other representatives, who repelled the interposition of the general government in this respect, and maintained the self-constituting rights of the States.

In truth, the thing attempted was, in form alone, action to the general government, while in reality it was an endeavor, by abuse of legislative power, to force the ideas of internal policy, entertained in particular States, upon allied independent States. Once more the constitution and the Union triumphed victoriously. The new Territories were organized without restrictions on the disputed point, and were thus left to judge in that particular for themselves; and the sense of constitutional faith proved vigorous enough in Congress not only to accomplish this primary object, but also the incidental and hardly less important one of amending the provisions of the statute for the extradition of fugitives from service, so to place that public duty under the safeguard of the general government, and thus relieve it from obstacles raised up by the legislation of some of the States.

Vain declamation regarding the provisions of law of the extradition of fugitives from service, with occasional episodes of frantic effort to obstruct their execution by riot and murder, continued, for a brief time to agitate certain localities. But the true principle, of leaving each State and Territory to regulate its own laws of labor according to its own sense of right and expediency, had acquired fast hold of the public judgment, to such a degree, then, by common consent, it was decreed in the organization of the Territory of Washington.

When, more recently, it became requisite to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, it was the natural and legitimate, if not the inevitable, consequence of previous events and legislation, that the same great and sound principle, which had already been applied to Utah and New Mexico, should be applied to them; that they should stand exempt from the restrictions proposed in the act relative to the State of Missouri.

These restrictions were, in the estimation of many thoughtful men, null from the beginning, unauthorized by the constitution, contrary to the treaty stipulations for the cession of Louisiana, and inconsistent with the equality of the States.

They have been stripped of all moral authority by persistent efforts to procure their indirect repeal through contradictory enactments. They had been practically abrogated by the legislation attending the organization of Utah, New Mexico and Washington. If any vitality remained in them it would have been taken away, in effect, by the new territorial acts, in the form originally proposed to the Senate at the first session of the last Congress. It was mainly and ingeniously as well as patriotic and just to do this directly and plainly, and thus relieve the statute-book of an act which might be of possible future injury, but of no possible future benefit; and the measure of its repeal was the final consummation and complete recognition of the principle that no portion of the United States, shall undertake, through assumption of the powers of the general government, to dictate the social institutions of any other portion.

The scope and effect of the language of repeal were not left in doubt. It was declared, in terms, to be "the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States."

The measure could not be withheld upon its merits alone. It was attacked with violence on the false or delusive pretext that it constituted a breach of faith. Never was objection more utterly destitute of substantial justification. When before was it imagined by sensible men that a regulative or declarative statute, whether enacted ten or forty years ago, is irrevocable—that an act of Congress is above the constitution? If, indeed, there were in the facts any cause to impute bad faith, it would attach to those only who have never ceased from the time of the enactment of the restrictive provision to the present day, to denounce and to condemn it; who have constantly refused to compete it by useful supplementary legislation; who have spared no exertion to deprive it of moral force; who have themselves again and again attempted a repeal by the enactment of incompatible provisions; and who, by the inevitable reactionary effect of their own violence on the subject, awakened the country to perception of the true constitutional principle of leaving the matter involved to the discretion of the people of the respective existing or incipient States.

It is not pretended that this principle, or any other, precludes the possibility of evils in practice, disturbed as political action is liable to be by human passions. No form of government is exempt from inconveniences; but in this case they are the result of the abuse, and not of the legitimate exercise of the powers reserved or conferred in the organization of a Territory. They are not to be charged to the great principle of popular sovereignty; on the contrary, they disappear before the intelligence and patriotism of the people, exerting through the ballot-box their peaceful and silent but irresistible power.

If the friends of the constitution are to have another struggle, its enemies could not present a more acceptable issue than that of a State, whose constitution clearly embraces "a republican form of government," being excluded from the Union because its domestic institutions may not in all respects comport with the ideas of what is wise and expedient entertained in some other State. Fresh from groundless imputations of breach of faith against others, men will commence the agitation of this new question with undilutable violation of an express compact between the independent sovereign powers of the United States and of the republic of Texas, as well as of the older and equally solemn compacts which assure the equality of all the States.

But, deplorable as would be such a violation of compact in itself, and in all its direct consequences, that is the very least of the evils involved. When sectional agitators shall have succeeded in forcing on this issue, can their pretensions fail to be met by counter pretensions? Will not different States be compelled respectively to meet extremes with extremes? And, if either extreme carry its point, what is that so far forth but dissolution of the Union? If a new State, formed from the territory of the United States, be absolutely excluded from ad-

mission there, that fact of itself constitutes the disruption of union between it and the other States. But the process of dissolution could not stop there. Would not a sectional decision producing such result by a majority of votes, either northern or southern, of necessity drive out the oppressed and aggrieved minority, and place in possession of each other two irreconcilably hostile confederations?

It is necessary to speak thus plainly of projects, the offspring of that sectional agitation now prevailing, in some of the States, which are as impracticable as they are unconstitutional, and which, if persevered in, must and will end calamitously. It is either disunion and civil war, or it is mere angry, idle, aimless disturbance of public peace and tranquility.

Denial for what? If the passionate rage of fanaticism and partisan spirit did not force the fact upon our attention, it would be difficult to believe that any considerable portion of the people of this enlightened country could have so surrendered themselves to a fanatical devotion to the supposed interests of the relatively few Africans in the United States as to totally abandon and disregard the interests of the twenty-five millions of Americans, to trample under foot the injunctions of moral and constitutional obligation, and to engage in plans of vindictive hostility against those who are associated with them in the enjoyment of the common heritage of our national institutions.

Nor is it hostility against their fellow-citizens of one section of the Union alone. The interests, the honor, the duty, the peace, and the prosperity of the people of all sections are equally involved and imperilled in this question. And are patriotic men in any part of the Union prepared, on such an issue, thus naively to invite all the consequences of the forfeiture of their constitutional engagements? It is impossible. The storm of phrensy and faction must inevitably dash itself in vain against the unshaken rock of the constitution. I shall never doubt it. I know that the Union is stronger a thousand times than all the wild and chimerical schemes of social change, which are generated, one after another, in the unstable minds of visionary sophists and interested agitators. I rely confidently on the patriotism of the people, on the dignity and self-respect of the States, on the wisdom of Congress, and above all, on the continued, gracious favor of Almighty God, to maintain, against all enemies, whether at home or abroad, the sanctity of the constitution and the integrity of the Union.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.
Washington, December 31, 1855.

THE TIMES.

GREENSBOROUGH, N. C.
THURSDAY, JAN. 10, 1856.

Positive Arrangement.
Subscribers receiving their papers with a cross mark are notified thereby that their subscription will expire in four weeks, and unless renewed within that time their names will be erased from the mail book.

S. W. WHITAKER, Bookseller, Stationer and dealer in Music & Musical Instruments, Wilmington, N. C., is our authorized Agent for that city.

Apprentices Wanted.
Two boys with a good English education, and able to read manuscript, will be taken at this office to learn the printing business. Please apply immediately.

President's Message.
We were taken upon a surprise a few days since, by the sudden appearance of the President's Message. Our usual variety is crowded out to make room for it. It is very lengthy, but an impartial judge must pronounce it a well written document. Without any mere fanciful or labored introduction, he dives at once into our most intricate national affairs. We admire especially the truly national tone which characterizes his exposure of our foreign relations, and which so faithfully represents our country to the civilized world, as asking nothing but what is right, and determined to submit to nothing that is wrong.

The portion of the Message which treats of our difficulties with England is highly important, and will be found useful as a reference in the many discussions to which the subject will hereafter give rise. The truth is, that England has no more claim to exercise political dominion in Central America than she has in the United States. What she once laid claim to she relinquished by her treaty with Spain; and since the Central American Republics have gained their independence, she has again undertaken to enforce them.

At home it represents our country as every where prosperous and in good condition; and the harmony and stability of the Republic and the institutions which have grown up under it, as not likely to be disturbed by the squabbles of political parties. The sentiments and views of the President, under the several heads of "Constitutional Theory of the Government," and "Constitutional relations of Slavery," though somewhat of a novelty in a President's annual Message, are nevertheless sound, constitutional and patriotic; and can scarcely fail to have a good effect both abroad and at home. In treating upon the subject of slavery especially, he does not mince matters, but pours hot shot into the ranks of the abolitionists and free-soilers in fine style.

Hon. Henry A. Wise was inaugurated on Tuesday, January 1, as Governor of Virginia.

Plank Road.

Books have been opened by the proper officers in this place, to receive subscription of stock for the purpose of building a plank road, from Greensboro' via Madison to the Virginia line. The history of plank roads, has demonstrated that, when well located, and prudently managed, the stock is profitable, and that the real estate contiguous to such roads is greatly enhanced in value, besides the great convenience they afford to the traveling public, and above all the vast saving to those who have produce to convey to market. Besides these general inducements, there are some peculiar to the citizens of Greensboro' and Madison; these from their location are and would become market towns to a large extent of country, and Greensboro' would naturally become the Depot for a large amount of Tobacco and other produce intended for transportation on the N. Carolina Rail Road to find a distant Market.

The legislature has granted a Charter for this Road, and it is now properly brought to the consideration of those interested in its construction.

What say the people to this enterprise? Can any one for a moment doubt its success? Is it possible that those interested will let this opportunity pass unimproved? if so they will awake from their slumbers, and find to their regret when too late, that—

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flow, leads on to fortune,
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures."

But looking at the great amount of business in the hands of those interested, and comparing the advantages to be derived, with the losses that will be felt, if the road is not built, it would seem impossible that any people possessing the intelligence and enterprise of those interested, should let such an opportunity escape unimproved. But what are the facts in the case. The people interested in this road are for the most part literally asleep, while their neighbors East and West are at work trying to secure to themselves these very advantages which we shall lose if we do not wake up. Shall we blame them, no but we shall reflect on ourselves, when too late, we find, those advantages gone to others, which a little energy might have secured to ourselves. But we will not despair, let every one interested look at this matter, and subscribe according to his ability, and the Road shall be built, and we shall yet reap the advantages that must grow out of this enterprise, which is emphatically the great enterprise of the day to those immediately interested.

Pomology.

The subject of fruit culture is exciting considerable interest with the people at this time. A good orchard is rightly deemed a valuable possession and since it is in the power of every person, possessing a farm, we feel happy in being able to present to our readers a series of articles on the subject of pomology by one of our most energetic and successful horticulturists, S. W. Westbrooks, Esq. of this county. The introductory article this week, originally appeared in the (S. C.) *Chester Standard*, but the following numbers will appear original in the *Times*.

The Weather.

The citizens of Greensboro' have experienced the coldest and most disagreeable weather during the two or three weeks passed, we have ever known in this latitude. For two weeks it was almost impossible to cross our streets on account of the mud; it then commenced snowing and continued day and night until its average depth reached sixteen inches. The consequence of all this is, that nearly every body was caught out of wood, and as fire was a necessity, rails and good boxes fared badly.

We hope the good done the wheat crop of our country farmers, will do something towards counterbalancing the cold times in town.

"Independent Guards," Raleigh.

We are indebted to Capt. J. Q. DeCarteret for a ticket to a "Vocal and Instrumental Concert and Festival," to be given by the above company on Tuesday evening last the 8th inst.—the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

It would have afforded us much pleasure, to have participated in these exercises; especially as the company is composed of young men, the hope of the old North State for years to come. It is to these she looks for protection, and into their hands she confides her honor.

P. S. We learn that the Anniversary Festival is postponed until next Monday night.

We are requested to announce that the committees of invitation and arrangement for the Rail Road Jubilee, will meet in the Court House on next Tuesday evening at 2 o'clock.

Calendar.

If each reader will cut out the calendar found on our last page and post it up, they may find it very convenient for reference.

On our return we were thrown into Greensboro' about 2 o'clock in the morning, where we remained until 11 o'clock. The Bland House having been closed, about forty passengers were put down at Hopkin's Hotel, where the sleeping accommodations were bad, the fare indifferent, the attentions none, and the charges tuned to the highest note.—*Raleigh Standard*.

As the above paragraph from the "Junior" of the *Standard*, who is giving a history of his trip to Salisbury, does gross injustice to Mr. Hopkins and at the same time throws out a modest insinuation in reference to the facilities of Greensboro' to accommodate passengers; we deem it worthy of a passing notice, for fear that some one whose faith is tied up in the *Standard*, may be led into error in reference to the accommodations of our goodly town.

We have been requested to make the following statement of facts. Previous to the night alluded to above, the stage stopped at the "Bland House." On this night they were sent to Hopkin's Hotel, without the knowledge of Mr. Hopkins. But aroused at the late hour of 3 o'clock A. M. the proprietor had large fires made and rooms furnished, though his house was nearly filled with passengers the evening previous. All were accommodated except one, who twice refused to retire to his room though solicited to do so, averring that he wished to warm. But while warming he fell asleep on his chair, in which position he remained until after 5 o'clock. All the beds were then occupied and his only chance for rest the remainder of the night was "to walk in the old path." We are glad to state that this was not the "Junior."

The fair and prices were the same as heretofore, which never failed to give the fullest satisfaction.

We have no time for comment, but deem a true statement of the case sufficient.

THE NORTH CAROLINA READERS;—1st, 2d, 3rd, "prepared, with special reference to the wants and interests of North Carolina, under the auspices of the Superintendent of common schools, A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, Publishers."

We have received these Readers, and examined them with much interest. They form one series, and are intended for general use in each and every common school in the State. The first contains the elementary principles of the English language together with easy and interesting lessons for the young reader. We are glad to see the little *baby talk* footnotes, so common in such books, entirely dispensed with, and even the young acknowledged to be capable of understanding an easy article, though written with *sense*. We never could understand the propriety of feeding the youthful mind on *foolishness*, to raise a man of *vision*. The second contains general rules for correct reading, and a miscellaneous collection in prose and poetry tending to inculcate principles of morality, industry and high aims. These, the 1 and 2 are new books, just issued, and prepared by Rev. F. M. Hubbard Prof. in the University. The 3 of the series was prepared in 1851, by Calvin H. Wiley, Esq. now the Superintendent of Common schools for the State. As it has been before the public they ought to know its contents.

Perhaps no work has done more to imbu a true North Carolina spirit—a praiseworthy state pride. It contains a very correct, though brief history and description of the State, together with a large collection of prose and poetry by native North Carolinians. It also develops the resources of the state in a more correct, and therefore in a more prosperous condition, than is generally given to her credit.

We believe these Readers are eminently qualified for the high position they are intended to take—a *universal use in every North Carolina school where the young are taught*. The reason why these Readers should thus supersede all others of the kind, is briefly given in the preface, as below:—

"1. The encouragement of a feeling of self dependence, and the enlistment of popular sentiment in behalf of the State, and of its institutions. It was not thought important, however, to have more than one number of the Readers of merely local interest.

2. To remedy the evil, everywhere complained of, in Common Schools, of a perpetual change of text books; an expensive habit, and one which injures the schools by preventing the children from being classified. A series of home Readers, it was supposed, would be certainly used, and this great evil thus avoided.

3. Economy, the popular system of Readers being too long, and being made so often merely to add to the profits of authors and publishers.

This series is to consist of fewer numbers than those generally used;—and it is believed that these numbers are sufficient, while if the system were universally used in the State, the sum saved to parents and children would amount to several thousand dollars annually.

4. To put in the hands of children learning to read, compositions sufficiently familiar, but not of the character called childish; compositions containing, in lessons easy enough for all ages, correct specimens of style, interesting in matter, and inculcating proper moral and religious instructions.

How nearly this last object has been attained, it is not proper for the undersigned to undertake to decide: he can only say that his purpose has been such as indicated.

Finally, the series is not over burdened with rules while there are enough to suggest to teachers the kind of instruction which, to be most effective, must necessarily come from them.

Amphotypes.

A. Starrett, Esq., showed us some specimens of Amphotypes, this week, whose superiority over the old fashioned silver plated Daguerotypes is unquestioned. An Amphotype is taken on glass, and is not reversed like the old plan; and it can be seen in any light, as it is free from the polish of the silver plate. It cannot get dusty, and is not easily defaced; it is impervious to water, air or acid, and will last for ages unimpaired.

Mr. Starrett has engaged the services of Mr. Hughes, a celebrated artist, who will be in town this week. Office on Market street, over Gilmer's store.

Gen. Cary.

We learn by the appointments of the Committee that this distinguished champion of Temperance will address the citizens of Guilford at Greensboro' on Friday next. We learn that Gen. Cary intends returning home from this place, and it will, therefore, probably, be the last time we shall ever be permitted to hear him. The last time! Though the snow is deep and the wind cutting, yet let no one who loves sound reasoning, logical arguments and eloquent appeals intermixed with tasty and pleasant anecdotes, fail to avail himself of this opportunity to hear one of the greatest temperance orators of the present day.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT:—We learn by a passenger on board, that the Charlotte & S. C. Rail Road run off the track on Saturday the 29 ult. mangling some negroes, one of which has since died; also considerably crushing up the cars. The passengers escaped mostly unhurt. The accident happened on account of the dilapidated condition of the road.

NEW POSTAGE LAW:—From the first of this month, the postage on all letters to any part of the United States, must be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, as this is the law of Congress, which took effect the first day of this month. Letters to foreign countries can be sent as usual.

John McPherson Berrien, of Georgia, at one time Attorney General of the United States, and for many years a distinguished Senator in Congress, is dead.

EVA. As we have several poetical articles on hand, we are glad you propose to write us an article in prose. We will be much pleased to hear from you.

We are under obligation to the Hon. J. C. Dobbin, Secretary of the Navy, for a copy of his Report in pamphlet form.

The Citizens of Charlotte have voted upon the proposition submitted by the town Council, for a subscription of \$25,000 on the part of the town, to the capital stock of the Wilmington and Rutherford Railroad Company. The subscription, it will be seen, was ordered by an overwhelming majority.

For the Subscription,.....122
Against it,.....20
Majority,.....102

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE:—Our present Postmaster General, "says the Louisville Journal," in view of the deficiency of the post-office revenue, has made one strong effort to have the rates of postage raised both on letters and on newspapers, and will very probably make another.

The Journal of Commerce says, that up to the present time, the Postmaster General has never been at the trouble to state what amount of "free" government mail matter is sent in the mails; and, until called for by a resolution of the House, and furnished by Mr. Berrett, the Washington City Postmaster, there had been no official information on the subject since the administration commenced. Mr. Berrett's report shows the postage on "free" matter, if reckoned at ordinary rates, to be \$1,468,884, going outward from the Washington City Postoffice. Mr. Hall, Postmaster General in 1851, estimated the amount outwardly and inwardly at the Washington City Postoffice to be \$2,120,410 a year. From these statements, the Postoffice Committee in the House of Representatives estimated two millions and a half for the Government and Congressional franked matter yearly.

Now let Congress, instead of mising the postage, either abolish the franking privilege altogether or appropriate at once and regularly from the Treasury a sufficient amount of money to pay the enormous amount of franked matter. As for the increase of postage, the people will listen to no such thing.

An old maid is an odd boot, of no use without its fellow.

C. F. Deems, D. D.

We refer the reader to the following resolutions unanimously passed by the citizens of Greensboro' in reference to the moral standing of this gentleman for the last six years most of which time he was a resident of this place. As his standing as a Christian Minister has lately been assailed, the citizens of Greensboro' deemed this tribute due.

FOR THE TIMES.

At a meeting of the citizens of Greensboro', held in the Court House, Jan. 3, 1856, the Hon. J. A. Gilmer was called to the chair, and Dr. D. P. Gregg, appointed Secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were introduced by J. R. McLean, Esq., chairman of the committee:

Whereas, the kind, gentlemanly and moral as well as uniformly christian deportment of the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Deems, ever since our knowledge of him, and especially during his years of residence in Greensboro', has been such as to secure to him the regard and esteem of all good men, and to excite with us all the most lively interests in every thing tending to effect his position, welfare or happiness.

Therefore, be it resolved by this assembly unanimously, That we still entertain, and with readiness and pleasure, express our united and firm belief in his integrity and irreproachable uprightness of design and purpose, and his purity of character as a Gospel Minister.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the chairman and secretary, be furnished to all the papers in Greensboro' for publication, with a request that all other papers desirous that justice may be done, and innocence protected, will publish the same.

The above resolutions were ably and eloquently sustained by the Hon. J. A. Gilmer, J. R. McLean, and E. W. Ogburn, and were unanimously adopted.

JOHN A. GILMER, Chm.

DECATTER P. GREGG, Sec'y.

WILMINGTON, N. C. Dec. 25th, 1855.

At a meeting held at Front street M. E. Church, this evening, Thos. Loring, Esq., was called to the Chair, and W. A. Walker appointed Secretary.

On motion Messrs. Z. H. Green, Oliver, Kelley, and B. W. Beery, were appointed a committee to prepare business for the action of the meeting. On further motion, the Chairman was added to the committee, which, after a short absence, returned and reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Certain occurrences, not necessary to recapitulate, have rendered it proper for us to express our sentiments in regard to our esteemed brother and distinguished fellow-citizen, Rev. Dr. C. F. Deems, therefore,

Resolved, That we have undiminished confidence in the integrity and uprightness of Dr. Deems as a gentleman, and in his purity of character as a Gospel Minister.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to bear to Dr. Deems, at his residence in Goldsboro', a Silver Pitcher, with suitable inscriptions as a token of our affectionate regard for himself and family.

Messrs. B. W. Beery, Z. H. Green and W. A. Walker, were appointed a committee to carry into effect the above resolution.

On motion, the name of the Chairman was also added to the committee.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Dr. Deems, and that the editors of Wilmington, and other parts of the States, be respectfully requested to give them an insertion in their several papers.

T. LORING, Chairman.

W. A. WALKER, Secretary.

Suicide.

We learn that Mr. John Smoot, a young man residing in Davis County, committed suicide on Tuesday evening last, by shooting himself in the head with a pistol. He was residing with an uncle when the tragedy occurred. He returned from a neighbor's house that day, and after eating his dinner, without exhibiting any unusual symptoms, he asked for a piece of writing paper, retired to his room up stairs and commenced writing. A young man, who was a cousin, requested to see the contents of the paper, which Smoot laughingly declined, and the young man left the room. A few minutes afterwards Smoot went down stairs and took a walk and returned, and after a short interval the report of the pistol was heard. On repairing to his room they found the young man a corpse, lying upon his bed, dressed in his grave clothes, with one arm folded across his breast and the other at his side holding a six barrel revolver, and his head awfully mutilated. One barrel only of the pistol was discharged, the contents of which entered his forehead and tore the upper part of it entirely off.

It is thought that a partial derangement of the mind produced by an injury to the head, which he received about twelve months ago, was the cause of the fatal deed. Rumor attributes it partly to unrequited love, but of this we are not advised.—*Sal. Banner*.

We regret to hear (says the Charleston Courier) of the total destruction by fire of the DeKalb Cotton Factory, near Camden, S. C. The total amount of damage has been reported to us as \$50,000, of which one half is covered by insurance.

Supreme Court.

This tribunal met in this city on Monday. Present, Chief Justice Smith and Judge Battle—Judge Pearson being absent on account of domestic affliction. The following young gentlemen were licensed to practice law in this State. We are gratified that they are lawyers instead of doctors, as we prefer litigation to disease.

In the Superior Court.—Gen. N. Thompson, Caswell; Rufus Y. McCadden, do.; Wm. T. Faircloth, Greene; J. E. Reeves, Surry; John F. Brown, Davie; Thos. G. Hall, Cumberland; Jas. T. McLannahan, Chatham; Rufus K. Pepper, Stokes; Jon. A. Baker, New Hanover; Alfred M. Waddell, Orange; James B. Jordan, Berrie; Henry M. Willis, San Francisco, Cal.; Wm. C. Finch, Warren; Wm. L. McKay, Cumberland; Chas. E. Clark, Craven; and Edford Brown, Davie, and W. H. Spencer, Craven.

In the County Court.—Benj. R. Moore, Person; J. H. Bullock, do.; Thos. C. Fuller, Cumberland; J. J. Freeman, Berrie; W. J. Walker, Washington; Jas. H. Abell, Beaufort; Wm. L. Scott, Guilford; J. W. Payne, Davidson; G. W. T. Custis, Craven; S. S. Jackson, Jr., Chatham; H. E. Davis, Iredell; Alex. Melver, Moore; J. D. Stanford, Duplin; N. H. Fennell, New Hanover; Wm. S. Saunders, Orange; F. S. Moore, New Hanover; Miles M. Cowles, Yadkin; Jacob Davis, Jr., do.; J. J. Seales, Rockingham.—*Stand.*

THE MAINE LAW APPROVED BY THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND:—An order in council, dated at the Court of Windsor Castle, Nov. 21st, 1855, her Majesty gives her official sanction to the Prohibitory Liquor Law of the Province of New Brunswick, and directs the Governor or Commander-in-Chief, and all other persons whom it may concern, to be governed thereby accordingly. The law takes effect on the 1st of January.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE:—It is supposed that, owing to his continued sickness, Chief Justice Taney will not take his seat on the Bench during the present term of the United States Supreme Court.

DIED.

In this County on Monday last of Dispepsia, William G. Jordan. Aged about 25 years.

Commercial.

FAYETTEVILLE, Jan. 5.	
Bacon,	16 @ 17
Beeswax,	24 @ 25
Candles, Fayetteville Factory,	20 @ 21
" Athanastine,	26 @ 30
" Sperm,	25 @ 30
Coffee, Rio,	12 @ 13
" Laguaira,	13 @
" St. Domingo,	13 @
Cotton, Strictly prime,	81 @
" Prime,	81 @
" Fair,	17 @ 18
Cotton Yarns, No. 5 to 10,	17 @ 18
Feathers,	40 @ 8.60
Flour, Family,	8.10 @ 8.35
" Superfine,	8.10 @ 8.35
" Fine,	7.85 @ 8.10
" Scratched,	7.80 @ 8.05
Corn,	70 @ 75
Wheat,	1.00 @
Oats,	40 @ 45
Peas,	70 @
Rye,	1.00 @ 1.10
Hides, Dry,	11 @
" Green,	4 @ 5
Lard,	12 @
Molasses, Cuba,	45 @
" New Orleans,	45 @
Nails,	51 @
Salt, Liverpool, sack,	1.75 @ 1.25
" Allum, bushel,	75 @
Flaxseed,	1.50 @
Clover seed 2 1/2 bushels,	1.25 @ 15
Brandy, Peach,	80 @
" Apple,	55 @ 60
N. C. Whiskey,	55 @ 60
Sugar, Leaf,	12 @
" Crushed,	12 @
" St. Croix,	9 @ 10
" Porto Rico,	9 @ 10
" New Orleans,	8 @ 9
Tallow,	11 @ 12
Tobacco, Leaf,	12 1/2 @ 40
" Manufactured,	14 @ 15
Wool,	14 @ 15

NORFOLK, Va. Jan. 5.

Bacon, Ham,	15 @ 16
" Hog round,	13 @ 00
Beans, White,	2.00 @ 2.12
Buckwheat, bag,94 @ 00
Butter, Goshen,28 @ 32
" Glade,23 @ 25
Cotton,9 @ 00
Corn, White,81 @ 82
" Mixed,80 @ 00
" Yellow,85 @ 00
Flaxseed,	1.80 @ 1.90
Flour, Family,	9.00 @ 9.00
" Superfine,	9.50 @ 0.00
" Extra,	10.50 @ 0.00
" Family,	11.25 @ 0.00
Aay, Cargo,	1.00 @ 00
Oats,38 @ 40
Salt, Fine, 7 1/2 sack,	1.15 @
" Ground Alum,	1.30 @
Sugar, Refined,	10 1/2 @
" Crushed,	10 1/2 @
Shingles, Heart, 12 in bunch,	1.00 @
" Sap,	1.90 @ 5.00
Whiskey,	40 @

Our exchanges from Wilmington have failed to reach us for sometime, is the reason that market is not quoted.

List of Articles

Remaining in the Station at Greensboro' January 8, 1856.

DUE B. B.	
Wm. P. Midgett, 2 boxes candles,	50
King & Hege, 10 bags coffee, 2 bbls.,	
1 box, 1 lb.,	12.70
John Taylor, 1 package,	2.00
W. Bowman, 3 boxes furniture, 3	
bunches chairs, 1 box,	75
W. J. McConnell, 1 roll,	2.00
O. A. Koehn, 1 roll,	1.00
do do 1 box,	3.50
J. C. Averett, 4 trunks, 3 packages,	
without way-hill,	

Albums.

The Ladies' Tablet of Friendship, Memento of Friendship, Memento of Love, The Lady's Album, Album of Poetry, Army Album, For sale by E. W. OGBURN.

JOB PRINTING.

Having just established a Printing Office in Greensboro', N. C.

AND FASHIONABLE JOB TYPE,
Selected with great care, to suit the times and please the taste of our people, we respectfully call attention to the same and solicit A TRIAL.

ORDERS FOR
PAMPHLETS, HANDBILLS, CARDS, LABELS, CLERKS' BLANKS, SHERIFFS' do., CONSTABLES' do., ATTORNEYS' do.

Any other kind of Work, Required by the business Community, will be executed with

Neatness, Correctness, Dispatch AND PUNCTUALITY.
TIMES OFFICE.
Market Street, Greensboro', N. C.
Jan. 3, 1856.

NEW BOOKS.

Life in California, The Moral and Intellectual Diversity of Races, The Philadelphia Homeless, Topsy's Diary of Correspondence 4 vol. Lippincott's Gazetteer of the world, Harpers Juvenile Library, 25 volumes of Cumming's works, My School and Schoolmasters, Poetry and Mystery of Dreams, California and its History, Dress a fine Art, Common place Book, Jean of Arc, Glenwood, Elite, Dove, The Old Homestead, The Ten years among the Alps, The Cottage Garden, Hidden Path, Any Lee, Scenes in the Life of our Saviour, Book of Boarder, Souvenir Gallery, Bears, Moley Kitty, Love of Country, The End—by Cummings, &c., &c. For sale by E. W. OGBURN, December, 22nd, 1855.

S. W. WESTBROOKS.

Proprietor of the Guilford Pomological Gardens and Nurseries.

WOULD respectfully call the attention of our Southern citizens to his select collection of native and acclimated varieties of FRUIT TREES, embracing some 40,000 trees of the following varieties, viz: Apple, Peach, Pear, Plum, Apricot, Cherry, Strawberry, Almond; also a choice assortment of Grapevines, Raspberries, Strawberry, &c., &

